ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES.

OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE

MOBILE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Bay Shore Baptist Church,

DAPHNE, BALDWIN CO., ALA.

AUGUST 6th, 7th AND 8th,

1896.

OFFICERS:

R. L. MAUPIN ..... MODERATOR.

G. J. ROBERTSON ..... CLERK AND TREASURER.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD WITH

Bethany Church,

WHISTLER, ALA.,

Thursday, Aug. 5, 1897, 8 P. M.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING CO.

Order of Business.

1. Call to order by former Moderator.
2. Introductory Sermon.
3. Enrollment of Delegates.
4. Election of Officers: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Appoint Special Committees, viz:
   (a) Devotional, (b) Nominations,
   (c) Finance, (d) Deceased Ministers.
7. Receive Correspondence and Visitors.
8. Appoint Correspondents.
9. Miscellaneous Business.
10. Reports of Standing Committees:
    (1) Executive Committee.
    (2) Missions: (a) State, (b) Home, (c) Foreign.
    (3) Education.
    (4) Temperance.
    (5) Woman's Work.
    (6) Sunday Schools.
    (7) Publication and Colportage.
    (8) Orphanage.
11. Report of Special Committees:
    (a) Nominations, (b) Deceased Ministers, (c) Finance.
12. Report of Treasurer.
13. Elect Executive Committee.
14. Appoint Standing Committees.
15. Elect Delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
16. Miscellaneous Business.
17. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

Mobile Baptist Association,

1896.

FIRST DAY—AUGUST 6, 8 P. M.

1. By appointment of the Executive Committee the Mobile Baptist Association met in the court house at Daphne at 8 P. M. for the convenience of the delegates. The church being at an inconvenient distance and the walk very rough. Bro. W. A. Alexander called the meeting to order, and after duly waiting for the appointee, Rev. H. H. Shell, Rev. R. G. Patric was enjoined to be his substitute, and preached from Romans 8: 32: "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things."

2. He was followed by remarks from the State Secretary, Rev. W. C. Bledsoe, in behalf of the State Work, and the newly issued Mission Quarterly.

3. The meeting then adjourned to meet the next morning at the Bay Shore Church, at 8½ o'clock.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

4. The Association met according to appointment, and after devotional exercises, led by J. J. Taylor, Chas. Hall, J. N. Pollard and G. J. Robertson, were appointed to read the church letters and act as committee on finance.

5. The list of delegates and visitors was commenced, and afterwards completed as follows:

St. Francis Street—J. J. Taylor, J. W. Willis, E. O. Fowlkes, R. L. Maupin, W. T. West, W. A. Alexander, J. B. Fiquet, E. R. Quattlebaum, H. P. Watson, D. P. Bestor and G. J. Robertson.

Palmetto Street—H. H. Shell, R. E. Lambert, T. W. Davis, Wm. Lockler, T. S. Winter and Wm. Farnell.

Bethany—D. S. Myers and D. R. Cooper.

Zion—J. N. Pollard, J. H. Bolton and E. H. Jackson.

Shady Grove—R. S. Dickin.

Mt. Pleasant—W. P. Roberts.

Citronelle—Chas. C. Coleman.

Shell Banks—H. P. Hanson, John A. Nelson and Thos. E. Hanson.

Bay Minette—Letter. No delegate.

Bay Shore—Chas. Hall.

Brook Cedron—H. P. Hanson and Joseph Bishop.

Bayou le Batre—Letter. No delegate.

Grand Bay—Dexter Russell.

Visitors—W. C. Bledsoe, Secretary State Board of Missions; J. W. Stewart, Financial Secretary and Agent of Baptist Orphanage, Evergreen, Ala.; R. G. Patric, representing the Judson Institute, Marion, Ala.; T. C. Hand, Shelby Association; J. G. Lowry, Chickasahay Association; H. F. Oswald, Fair Hope.

6. The election of officers resulted in R. L. Maupin, Moderator, and G. J. Robertson, Clerk and Treasurer.

7. The "Order of Business," presented by the Executive Committee, was adopted.

8. The newly organized Grand Bay Church presented a declaration of faith, and a request for membership in the Association. On motion of J. J. Taylor, the church was received, and the Moderator extended the hand of fellowship in behalf of the body.

9. Brethren Chas. Hall, John Crane and W. A. Alexander, were appointed a committee on devotional exercises, and also on time and place of meeting.

10. A communication relative to the needs of the Bayou le Batre Church, was read and referred to the Executive Committee.

11. E. O. Fowlkes presented and read the

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Executive Committee beg to report as follows; The need of pastors at weak churches, has engaged most of the attention of your committee. Four meetings have been held and the question discussed by the committee, which is composed of members from most of said

churches. After a thorough discussion of the matter among ourselves, our State Secretary Dr. Bledsoe (by invitation) met the commmttee on May 25th and the following plan was formulated, which we herewith recommend : That the Churches unable to pay a pastor for his full time, group themselves together, and call a pastor, paying him to the fullest extent of their ability. The State Board then agrees to *return to such churches most of* the money contributed to State Missions by Churches in the Association. Said money is to be used in supplementing the salaries of such pastors, where, in the judgment of the State Board and the Executive Committee, it is needed. This is in order that such pastors may give their whole time to the work. The experience of the State Board and Executive Committee of your Association, has found it unwise and un-Baptistic to attempt to send men to fill the pulpits of the churches. The churches must band together and select a *pastor* for all of his time—thereby only can he be an efficient one. We prayerfully urge the churches for their own sake, and for the sake of the cause, to co-operate in such a plan, for the system now existing is a complete failure and drawback, both to themselves and the cause. We also urge that every church and Sunday School in our Association contribute something for Missions on the first Sunday in each month, and send to the State Board, however little, and make special prayer, that the Lord will bless *it*, in sending the Word of God to those who have it not.

Respectfully submitted, E. O. Fowlkes, Chairman.

On motion of J. W. Willis, it was laid over to be taken up and discussed in connection with the Associational Work.

12. Rev. J. J. Taylor read the

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The apostle Paul in Romans 14: 21, Says: "It is good neither to eat flesh nor to drink wine nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth or is offended or is made weak."

And in Romans 15: 1-2 "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmaties of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification."

These few verses lay down the principles that should guide us as children of God; to do good and not evil to our fellow man. And of all the woes that afflict humanity none are greater than those caused by alcoholic drinks. They weaken the body, destroy the mind and damn the souls of its victims, while it lays the foundation for the vilest crimes. In view of these facts our duty as Christians is total abstinence from use of all intoxicating liquor as a beverage. We may think ourselves strong enough to keep from ever being drunkards; but there are many whom your example would lead astray, who are weak and for whose destruction you will be held responsible. It is not the man who has drunk himself out of home, friends, money, and all that life holds dear whose

example does harm. He acts like some old wreck along the ocean shore warning us of the rocks by which it perished. But it is the church member (I wont say he is a Christian for guided by the passages that head this report he is not) who haunts barrooms and drinks with the worldling and scoffs at those who don't know when to stop. Or it is the sparkling glass handed to the young man by one whose loveliness and grace lures him on to ruin. No one ever becomes a drunkard all at once; if the first glass of liquor is never taken there can be a full assurance that you will be safe from all danger; otherwise you may be like the man in Esop's fable, nursing a serpent into its life to sting you into death.

The churches should see to it that their entire membership should be composed of persons who carry out the principles of total abstinence, and the membership should be urged to their duty in this respect in a loveing manner, as one which they owe to their fellow man with whom they mingle day by day; as one they owe their Saviour whom they pledged themselves to follow "in newness of life": for it was the object of His life not to please Himself but to rescue and save the weak, helpless and lost. Respectfully submitted,

H. S. Stackhouse, for Committee.

Pending the discussion, the Committee on Devotional Exercises reported that Rev. H. H. Shell would preach at 11 o'clock. After singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" a recess of ten minutes was taken.

13. Eleven o'clock having arrived, Bro. Shell preached an able sermon from Matth. 28: 19-20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

14. The report on Temperance was again taken up and discussed, and D. R. Cooper offered the following resolution:

ON TEMPERANCE.

Whereas, In Mobile County the bar-room license tax is turned direct into the school fund of the county, thus forming an unholy alliance between the good cause of education and the bad cause of intemperance, and so hindering the work of reform:

Resolved, That we record our hearty disapproval of this arrangement, and call upon our representatives in the Legislature and the friends of righteousness everywhere, to do all in their power to relieve our people of this disgraceful incubus.

The report was discussed by D. R. Cooper, J. J. Taylor, J. W. Willis and E. R. Quattlebaum, and then adopted.

15. The Committee on Devotional Exercises, and time and place of meeting, reported as follows, which was adopted :

TIME AND PLACE OF WORSHIP.

August 7—Adjourn at pleasure until 3 p. m., to meet at court house, and adjourn at pleasure. Preaching at 8 p. m , at court house.

August 8—Meet at court house at 9 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m., at court house, adjourn at 12:30. Meet at 3 p. m., and adjourn at pleasure. Preaching at 8 p. m. All at court house.

CHAS. HALL, Chairman.

16. The time for dinner having arrived, the Association adjourned to meet at the court house at 3 o'clock.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

17. The Association convened at the court house at 3 o'clock, R. L. Maupin in the Chair. After singing "Come thy Fount," Bro. Shell led in prayer, and the reports on Missions were called for.

18. E. O. Fowlkes presented and read the

REPORT ON STATE AND HOME MISSIONS.

The report of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention gives great encouragement, that our work is not in vain.

The following are partial results for the past year: It had in its employ 425 missionaries, an increase of 44 over the preceding year, two hundred and thirty (230) churches were constituted and erected, with an increased membership of 10,564. Two thousand, one hundred and ten (2,110) Sunday schools organized. Contributions to the Home Mission Board, $76,523.18. Of this amount, Alabama gave $5,218.00, an increase over previous year of $1,000. Thirteen per cent. of the many thousands of immigrants from foreign shores, which infest our Southern cities, cannot speak English and are destitute of religion. Gratifying progress is reported among the Indians; membership in Indian Territory and Oklahoma, 14,000. By agreement, work among the negroes is to be done by the co-operation of the Home Mission Society of New York and our own Boards. Our cause in Cuba was strong and growing, but the present war has almost suspended the enlargement of our mission work there. The grandest work of all (to me) in our Home Mission Department, is among our native white population. The ignorance and destitution is appalling. Our board finds that to properly extend the work in the bounds of our own Southern Baptist Convention, there

is needed thirteen hundred and ninety-two (1392) missionaries, and the cash to support them would be $480,000 besides an equal amount for church buildings. We must have intelligent, educated men to preach to these whom God has placed in our midst.

State Missions.—We were much pleased that our last State Convention adopted the reports on Missionary Pastors and Evangelistic work. These reports recommended *more* evangelistic work, which is being done to the advancement of our cause in many portions of the state. We regret to report that in our own Association the State Board has not been in condition to give us that assistance we so much need. We recommend that as far as practicable, that the churches in our Association that are not able to pay pastors for full services, that two or three of them unite and employ one pastor between them. We have two mission stations in the city of Mobile, with flourishing schools, doing a good work, which means *much* for the future of our denomination. We learn that Bro. D. R. Cooper has organized a Sunday School at Grand Bay, resulting in about fifteen additions to membership with Union Church. Brethren in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, we need the combined efforts of our entire membership as Baptists to prosecute our work. We pray God's blessings upon this, our annual meeting, that it may be the means of some earnest consecrated measures of doing good mission work right here within our own lines.

Respectfully submitted, E. O. Fowlkes.

19. J. W. Willis then presented and read the

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Progress in Foreign Missions is keeping pace with the progress of the times. The increase during the past ten years in the contributions for this cause has been marvelous. In A. D. 1885, Protestant Christians contributed $9,799,495, while in the year 1895 their contributions reached the aggregate of $14,441,807. There are now engaged in the work of Foreign Missions 11,574 Protestant Missionaries, assisted by 70,033 native helpers: and there are 1,157,668 communicants in all Protestant Churches in the Foreign Mission fields. During the past year the Foreign Mission force of the Southern Baptist Convention was somewhat reduced by the return to this country of a number of our missionaries, and the total contribution of all Southern Baptist Churches to this cause aggregated $102,056.15, a falling off from the contribution of last year. Of this amount, $22,699.55 was raised by the Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. Alabama's contribution to foreign missions for the same period, was $6,693.33, or six cents per capita. The chief difficulty facing our Foreign Mission Board is that growing out of tardy contributions. The great bulk of all the money paid in is paid during the last three months of the conventional year. It takes $10,000 per month to meet the demands on our Board, and the delayed

contributions force the Board to borrow large sums at a high rate of interest, thus reducing by several thousand dollars the available funds of the Board. The only cure for this is for each church to take regular monthly, or quarterly, contributions for missions, forwarding the same to the respective Boards at once. Your committee earnestly recommend that all the churches of this Association adopt this plan, which can be best carried out by the use of envelopes and record of individual contributions. Information is the necessary condition for interest in missions, and we urge upon the pastors the importance of introducing into every Baptist family in their respective churches, some one, or more, of the many excellent missionary papers published by our denomination. The growth of our churches depends most largely upon their maintaining vigorous zeal and activity in behalf of missions. Brethren, let us be loyal to the last command of our Master, and merit, before the world, the name of Missionary Baptists.

Respectfully submitted, J. W. Willis.

The reports were discussed by E. O. Fowlkes, E. R. Quattlebaum, J. W. Stewart, W. A. Alexander, R. L. Maupin, G. J. Robertson and D. S. Myers, and then adopted.

20. After benediction by J. W. Willis, the Association adjourned to reassemble at 8 o'clock for preaching.

21. Rev. J. W. Stewart opened the service at the appointed hour and preached from 1 John 3: 8. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

22. After prayer by J. J. Taylor, J. W. Stewart gave a full history of our Baptist Orphanage at Evergreen. At the close, Bro. Chas. Hall moved that a collection for the orphanage be taken up, which was done and amounted to $9.35 in cash and $17.00 in pledges. After singing the Doxology, the Association adjourned to meet next morning at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY—Morning Session.

23. The Association met with R. L. Maupin in the Chair. After devotional exercises, the minutes of the previous meetings were read and approved.

24. E. R. Quattlebaum read his report as Treasurer, which was adopted:

CASH RECEIPTS.

From last Association, for Missions	$21.60
From last Association, for Minutes, &c	31.00
From Zion Church, for Orphanage	6.05
From Union Church, for Missions	1.55
From Bethany S. S., for Missions	8.32
From Bethany S. S., for Mexico	4.00
From Bay Minette Church, for Orphanage	7.12
From Union Church, for Orphanage	1.00
From Union Church, for State Missions	2.00
From Bethany Church, for State Missions	3.95
From Bethany Church, for Foreign Missions	3.90
Total receipts	$90.55

CREDITS.

Sent to W. B. Crumpton, S. S. M. B	$21.60	
Sent to W. C. Bledsoe, S. S. M. B	30.00	
Sent to W. C. Bledsoe, S. S. M. B	7.85	
Commercial Printing Co., for printing 300 copies Minutes	17.99	
Book and Colportage Department for Association letters	.40	
Postage, Stationery, &c	1.89	
Clerk's Sa ary	10.00	$89.73
Total receipts		$90.55
Total expenditures		89.73
Balance due by Clerk		$ .82

E. R. Quattlebaum, Clerk and Treasurer.

25. Two invitations were extended to the Association for the coming year. One from the St. Francis-Street Church and one from Bethany. A vote was taken by ballot, resulting in favor of Bethany Church.

26. The Moderator appointed H. P. Watson, T. W. Davis and R. S. Dickin, to nominate the Executive Committee.

27. T. W. Davis presented and read the

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In our Association we have 14 churches with 1,650 church members and 1,000 Sunday school pupils, and out of these 14 churches, we have only 3 of them without Sunday schools. This is a very good showing, but each of these three churches should have a live Sunday School. Besides, we have in our Association three thriving mission schools, two in the city, one a branch of the St. Francis St. Church and one a branch of Palmetto St. Church, and the other at Pt. Clear. This shows an increase in the work in the last five years, for then we had in our association 15 churches, (and six of them had no Sunday schools), with 1,228 church members and 837 Sunday school pupils. We

are having success in this glorious work. This is a grand work! A work for both the old and young, and every church member should take an interest in it, and push it with all the might and power that he possibly can, for out of the Sunday school we draw good and valuable material, and it is a great help to our church. The Sunday school should have the second, if not the first, place in our hearts. So let us try to have a good, live Sunday school in every church in our Association.

T. W. Davis.

The report was discussed by T. W. Davis, D. P. Bestor, R. L. Maupin, J. M. Hall, J. W. Willis and W. A. Alexander.

The hour for preaching having arrived, and the appointee, J. J. Taylor, having returned to Mobile, Bro. E. O. Fowlkes moved that the regular business be continued, which was agreed to. The discussion on the Sunday School work was continued by E. R. Quattlebaum and G. J. Robertson, after which it was adopted.

28. G. J. Robertson presented and read the

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Only six societies are in co-operation with the work. Some object to women's societies in the churches, claiming that all such work should be done by the church. We notice, however, the livest churches in the Association are those with women's societies. The reason is, there is much which comes up in a church which women alone can accomplish. The sick, dying, poor and unfortunate can be attended to with far more care and promptness by a band of faithful women than by the church as a whole. Such things can be confidentially discussed and more prudently looked after than when exposed to a whole church membership. They can devise among themselves ways of raising money for church purposes and missions which they cannot do in church. Contact is an absolute essential for spiritual growth. Where the women meet together come in contact with each other in one common cause, they imbibe each other's piety and consecration. The bare figures contained herein represent the very smallest part of the real work done. The toil, devotion, struggles and zeal cannot be recorded. The Bayou le Batre society is the best for promptness and regularity in sending in reports. Since the last report before you, the societies have contributed to various causes:

Bayou le Batre	$ 254.63
Citronelle	32.14
Zion	93.50
Palmetto Street	16.00
Woman's Missionary Society, (St. Francis St. Church)	20.00
Ladies' Aid Society, (St. Francis St. Church)	168.50
Shady Grove	25.00
Total	$ 609.77

Literature has been obtained *free* from our Southern Sunday School Board, for a year, for three Sunday schools. An organ has been furnished to one of them. One Sunday school has been re-organized, and one new one organized beyond Wheelerville. Colored pictures, Bibles and religious papers have been distributed.

LIDA. B. ROBERTSON, Chairman.

The report was discussed by J. W. Willis R. L. Maupin, W. A. Alexander, H. P. Hanson and D. P. Bestor, and adopted.

29. The Committee on Nominations made the following report, which was adopted:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—E. O. Fowlkes, R. L. Maupin, W. P. Roberts, J. N. Pollard, Gaston J. Robertson, Wm. Newell, Jas. L. Coleman, R. S. Dickin, A. M. Thompson, W. J. Young, Chas. C. Coleman, J. B. Fiquet and E. R. Quattlebaum.

DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION—G. J. Robertson, Chas. Hall, H. P. Hanson and J. M. Hall.

DELEGATES TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION—H. P. Hanson. Alternates: R. L. Maupin J. J. Taylor, and J. W. Willis.

30. Bro. R. L. Maupin presented and read the

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Religion is a principle which in a large measure is common sense reduced to practice. There are a great many wise men who are uneducated. If then, knowledge and wisdom can be harmonized and brought together in the Lord's service, what a tower of strength we have with which to combat the Enemy of Souls, and win victories for Him who gave us the great commission. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, &c." To preach means to teach, and the question recurs again and again. How can one teach who has himself never been taught? It is a contradiction on its face. In the ordinary affairs of life he who would attain to the highest degree of success uses the best means possible at his command. In secular matters, we would hold in ridicule the man who undertakes to practice law when he had never seen a law book and knew nothing of the Rules of Practice; or a man who would undertake to operate a system of electricity when he had never seen a battery, and was wholly ignorant of the power and danger of electricity. Such men, if they insisted on their fitness to fill such positions in these or any of the useful fields of knowledge, without first having been prepared for the work, would be condemned by all intelligent thinking men, and an inquest of lunacy would be issued by the Courts to restrain such men from doing violence to the well-being of society. But when it comes to Religion, which is the the vital principle in human life, which not only fits and qualifies men to meet the great responsibilities of this life but prepares them for the life to come, men take altogether a different view

of the matter. They are willing to leave this matter just where they find it and try to satisfy their own consciences by believing that God will take care of His own work in His own way. So He will, but He works through men to accomplish His eternal purposes, and we cannot shake off our responsibility. The day is coming and now is when we must have an educated ministry. The world is moving to the front, and all the fields of knowledge are being opened up to the masses, and if we lurk in the rear as a denomination, others will take our places and the work intrusted to our hands will fail because of our unfaithfulness. What we want to-day is the best men with the best minds, with the best money behind these best men to educate and equip them for this work. "Truly the harvest is great but the laborers are few." The cry not only comes from "Macedonia" but all round the world: "Come over and help us." In Alabama we have seventy six (76) white associations; 831 White ministers; 1649 white churches; 1432 colored churches; 113,826 white Baptists 146,276 colored Baptists, making a total of 260,102, which is one-fifth of the entire population of the State. What an army is here for the Lord, and what great things could be done if this mighty host had earnest, educated, and consecrated leaders who would unfurl the Gospel Banner throughout the length and breadth of this great and growing State.

Respectfully submitted,

R. L. Maupin, Chairman.

The report was discussed by R. L. Maupin, R. S. Dickin, J. W. Willis, D. P. Bestor, G. J. Robertson, J. M. Hall and R. E. Lambert, and then adopted.

31. On motion of Bro. H. P. Hanson, a committee was appointed to draft suitable resolutions on the death of Rev. Joseph Nelson of Baldwin County.

32. After singing and prayer by Rev. J. M. Hall, the Association adjourned for dinner.

THIRD DAY—Afternoon Session.

33. The Association reassembled at the appointed time with R. L. Maupin in the Chair. After singing, the Moderator led in prayer.

34. Rev. J. M. Hall read the

REPORT ON COLPORTAGE.

The Committee on Colportage earnestly recommend that the Sunday schools represented in this Association adopt and subscribe for the Sunday School literature, published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, at Nashville, Tenn. It has been said that a person's life is shaped by the literature that he reads, and often

we judge a person's taste for literature by the quality found in his or her possession, this being an index to the inner life. If then, the quality of literature read has so much to do with the shaping of human lives, how important it is that such literature be placed in the hands of the reading public as will tend to elevate the mind and give proper shape to the life, instead of the trashy literature that floods the country to-day, the tendency of which is to poison the mind, degrade the life and destroy the soul. And in no way can this be done more efficiently than by the work of an earnest colporteur. We then,as your committee in view of these facts, would earnestly recommend the appointment by the association of such a man for at least a part of his time for the prosecution of this great work. J. B. Fletcher, Chairman.

35. W. A. Alexander moved that the report be amended as follows:

The Committee on Colportage earnestly recommend: That the Sunday Schools represented in this Association, do adopt and subscribe for the Sunday School literature published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located at Nashville, Tenn.

It was discussed by W. A. Alexander, J. W. Willis and J. M. Hall, and the report as amended was adopted.

36. Associational Work was taken up and the report of the Executive Committee asked to be re-read, it having been made a special order in connection with it. The report, after discussion by E. O. Fowlkes, W. A. Alexander. E. R. Quattlebaum, R. S. Dickin, R. L. Maupin, H. F. Oswald and J. W. Willis, was adopted.

37. The Moderator announced the following committees to report next year:

MISSIONS.

State—Jas. L. Coleman, T. C. Gaston and R. S. Dickin.
Home—W. A. Alexander, O. F. White and Frank P. Day.
Foreign—D. P. Bestor, W. P. Roberts and H. P. Hanson.
Sunday Schools—Wm. J. Young, T. W. Davis and G. T. Litchfield.
Temperance—Judge Chas. Hall, A. M. Thompson and H. P. Watson.
Education—G. J. Robertson, Dexter Russell and N. B. Stapleton.
Woman's Work—Miss Lida Robertson, Miss Avie Farnell and Miss May Russell.

38. E. O. Fowlkes offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That our Association, when it adjourns, shall adjourn to meet with Bethany Church at Whistler, Ala., on Thursday before the second Sunday in August at 8. p. m. 1897.

39. G. J. Robertson offered the report of the

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

	For Minutes	For State Missions.
Citronelle	$ 1.00	.....
Brook Cedron	1.00	.....
Mt. Pleasant	2.00	.....
Shell Banks	1.50	$1.47
Palmetto Street	5.00	.....
St. Francis Street	10.00	.....
Zion	2.50	6.95
Bay Minnette	1.00	.....
Shady Grove	.80	1.50
Bethany	4.00	.....
Bayou le Batre	.55	.....
Bay Shore	1.00	.....
Union	1.25	.....
Citronelle S. S	1.00	.....
Point Clear	1.00	.....
	$33.60	$9.92
Total amount collected		$43.52

40. E. O. Fowlkes offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas, The business of our Association has, from year to year, been interfered with by the delegates leaving before the conclusion of of the session, thus leaving some of the most important subjects unfinished:

Resolved, We recommend and urge that the churches select only such bretheren for delegates as will remain until the Association shall adjourn; and release their pastors from their duties at home while the Association is in Session.

41. The committee appointed to draft resolutions on the death of Rev. Joseph Nelson, was presented by Rev. H. P. Hanson, and adopted.

Your Committee to whom was referred the matter of appropriate resolution in regard to the life and services of our late Brother the Rev. Joseph Nelson, beg leave to report: That the life of Bro. Nelson presents a pure and benevolent Christian character. He was a Baptist Minister of active work for over fifty years. He leaves a very large family, whose support engaged his constant labors, yet he continuously found time to preach and to give his energies to christian work. He was an exceedingly hospitable man and always had room for a neighbor, a friend or a

traveler. He was an ardent believer in and an active worker for missions and gave liberally of his means for this great Christian cause. We therefore recommend to this Association the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in the death of Bro. Joseph Nelson this Association has lost one of its most efficient and active members.

Resolved, That his long Christian life and beautiful, but humble character presents to us a model for us to mould ours by.

Resolved, That we thank God for his life, and for the many souls he has led into our church and the Road to Heaven.

Resolved, That this Association extend to his family our sorrow and sympathy in their great bereavement.

Respectfully submitted

H. P. HANSON,
H. P. WATSON,
D. P. BESTOR,
Committee.

42. On motion of Bro. J. M. Hall, the clerk was allowed $10.00 for his services.

43. Bro. J. W. Willis offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this Association be tendered the good people of Daphne and vicinity for their cordial hospitality to visitors and delegates. Also to Judge Charles Hall and the officers of Baldwin County for the use of the Court House for the meetings of the Association.

44. The Association then adjourned, to meet with the Bethany Baptist Church at Whistler, Ala., on Thursday August 5th, at 8 P. M., 1897. R. L. MAUPIN, Moderator.

G. J. ROBERTSON, Clerk.

LADIES' AID SOCIETIES.

Bayou le Batre—Miss Belle Slater, President.
Mrs. Annie Simonson, Secretary.

St. Francis Street—Mrs. J. J. Taylor, President.
Mrs. Helen A. Smith, Secretary.

Woman's Missionary—Mrs. Lawrence Moore, President.
Miss Emma Moore, Secretary.

Palmetto Street—.....President.
Miss Laura Pugh, Secretary, 160 Chatham st., Mobile

Citronelle—

Shady Grove—

Zion—Mrs. M. C. Farnell, President, P. O. Mobile.

NOTES BY THE CLERK.

Most of the delegates left on the afternoon boat before the Association adjourned. Bro. H. P. Hanson preached that night to a good congregation.

The Sunday School was also held in the court house, and the children were highly entertained by a talk from Miss Lida Robertson, accompanied with "Object Lessons."

Bro. J. W. Willis preached morning and evening to very large congregations. After the morning service, Bro. Chas. Hall made a talk in behalf of our orphanage and about nine dollars was contributed as a gift from Baldwin county.

An hour before the night service the ladies held among themselves an interesting meeting, which was conducted by our Vice President of Woman's Work, Miss Lida Robertson.

Quite a large number of brethren and sisters from Shell Banks arrived after the close of the Association, having been becalmed in the bay for twelve hours. Their cheery faces wonderfully added to the Sunday services, which were very conspicuous for the dearth of "delegates" and "preachers." The court house was crowded at both services by people who came "far and near" to hear the Gospel.

A stirring Sunday's meeting seems to be more far-reaching than all of the other days combined.

Ordained Ministers Connected With Association.

TAYLOR, J. J., D.D	Mobile, Ala.
WILLIS, J. W	Mobile, Ala.
SHELL, H. H	Mobile, Ala.
VANE, JEAN	Mobile, Ala.
HALL, J. M	Mobile, Ala.
NORRIS, L	Shubuta, Miss.
COOPER, D. R	Whistler, Ala.
MYERS, D. S	Whistlet, Ala.
JUDD, E. P. H	Whistler, Ala.
LUMBARD, J. S	St. Elmo, Ala.
THOMPSON, J. U	St. Elmo, Ala.
NEWELL, J. R	Spring Hill, Ala.
HELVESTON, F. M	Crichton, Ala.
HANSON, H. P	Gasque, Ala.
BYNUM, J. F	Escatawpa, Miss.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This body shall be styled The Mobile Baptist Association, and it shall meet annually at such time and place as may be duly determined.

ARTICLE II.

It shall be composed of all pastors within the bounds of this Association and of messengers from Baptist churches holding substantially the articles of Faith adopted by this body, at the rate of one messenger for every twenty-five members.

ARTICLE III.

We adopt as our scripture belief the "Declaration of Faith" as published in the Baptist Church Manual by the American Baptist Publication Society at Philadelphia, Pa.

ARTICLE IV.

Its object shall be, without interfering with the independence of the Churches, to concentrate Christian effort in the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom at home and abroad.

ARTICLE V.

Its officers shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall perform the usual duties of such officers. They shall be elected annually by ballot, and remain in office until their successors are elected. The offices of Clerk and Treasurer may be in one.

ARTICLE VI.

Corresponding messengers from other bodies of our Denomination shall be entitled to all privileges except voting.

ARTICLE VII.

The business of this Association shall be conducted, between its sessions, by an Executive Committee of thirteen members, appointed annually, five of whom shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Treasurer shall receive and distribute all funds belonging to the Association and give an itimized report thereof, annually.

ARTICLE IX.

This Constitution may be altered or ammended at any annual meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

STATISTICAL.

Organized.	Name of Church.	Location.	Pastor.	Clerk.	Clerk's Office.	Membership Last Report.	Increase.				Decrease.				Present Membership.	Sunday School.					
							Baptism.	Experi'ce.	Letter.	Restora'n.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.		Superintendent.	Offi'rs and Teachers.	Scholars Enrolled.	Av'ge Attendance.	Scholars Baptized.	No. S. S. P. Taken.
1845	St Francis St.	Mobile	J. J. Taylor	Geo. T. Rosson	Mobile	630	32	2	42	...	23	6	...	8	669	D. P. Bestor	34	336	215	.....	325
1872	Palmetto St	Mobile	H. H. Shell	J. A. Stikes	Mobile	322	17	...	26	4	1	20	...	4	344	W. J. Young	18	265	109	10	263
1878	Bethany	Whistler		T. C. Gaston	Whistler	133	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	133	W. P. Wood	12	98	...	1	.....
1876	Zion	Mobile Co	J. M. Hall	J. N. Pollard	Mobile	72	.....	...	3	...	1	1	...	3	70	W. H. Pollard	7	63	40	.....	60
1883	Shady Grove	Mobile Co	J. F. Bynum	Noel Turner	Brannon	32	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	31	A. J. Hubbard	4	35	25	.....	30
1868	Union	Mobile Co	D. R. Cooper	Wm. L. Fields	St. Elmo	85	12	...	4	...	12	...	...	...	89	W. L. Fields	5	62	25	2	.....
1878	Mt. Pleasant	Mobile Co		J. A. Wulff	Semmes	54	6	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	57		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1886	Citronelle	Citronelle		Ch. C. Coleman	Citronelle	14	2	...	2	...	2	1	...	...	15	C. Peterson	6	21	17	.....	65
1858	Shell Banks	Baldwin Co.	H. P. Hanson	Samuel Nelson	Gasque	57	18	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	80	J. D. Nelson	5	40	25	.....	83
1878	Bay Mi ette	Baldwin Co.	J. M. Hall	H. G. Stanmyres	Bay Minette	63	5	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	67	T. C. Hand	8	80	50	5	115
1881	Bay Shore	Baldwin Co.		Chas. Hall	Daphne	31	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	Chas. Hall	5	25	20	.....	.....
1881	Bayou le Batre	Mobile Co	D. R. Cooper	O. T. White	Bayou le Batre	40	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	39	W. W. Mussellwhite	8	60	50	1	86
1894	Pine Grove	Mobile Co	N. M. Sumrall			.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1851	Brook Cearon	Baldwin Co.		Joseph Bishop	Cavanac	29	13	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	45	J. P. Solocom	8	63	43	3	.....
1896	Grand Bay	Mobile Co	D. R. Cooper	Frank P. Day	Grand Bay	.....	.....	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
						1562	107	4	92	10	43	30	...	20	1682		120	1148	649	22	1027

Dauphin-Street Mission (St. Francis-Street Church) has preaching, by J. W. Willis, every Sunday afternoon and prayer meeting Friday nights, and a flourishing Sunday School, with an average attendance of about 70.

Delaware-Street Mission Sunday School (Palmetto-St. Church)—Officers and teachers, 7; average attendance, 60; superintendent, John E. Patterson, Mobile, Ala.

Point Clear Sunday School—Officers and teachers, 12; scholars on roll, 81; average attendance 60; J. W. Lamar, superintendent, Point Clear. Contributed for minutes, $1.00, literature, &c., $23.00. Total, $24.00.

FINANCIAL.

Churches.	Church Expenses.	Sunday S Expenses.	Pastor's Salary.	Foreign Missions.	Home and Indian Missions.	State Missions	Ministerial Education.	Money raised by S. Schools.	Woman's Society.	Howard College.	Baptist Orphanage.	Minutes.	Total.	Church Property.			
														Houses of Worship.	Value.	Sittings.	Total Value of Property.
St. Francis-St	$1,384.64	$185.93	$2.400.00	$1.055.60	$321.88	$332.53	$169.20	$239.12	$229.00			$10 00	$6,327.90	1	$55,000.00		$60,000.00
Palmetto-St	125.45		900.00	50 00		27.64		127.56	15.00	$25 00		5.00	1,275.65	1	7.000.00		7,000.00
Bethany				3.65		3 60		12.32				4 00	23.57	1	2,500.00		2,500.00
Zion	94 95	6.50	130.00	5.00		6 95		6.50	106.10		$6.05	2.50	364 55	1	1,600.00		1,600.00
Shady Grove	1 00	2.85	50.42			1.50			17.00			.80	73.57	1	500.00		500.00
Union	8.00	5.00	111.75	1.75			1.67				3.01	1.25	132.43	1	525 00		525.00
Mt. Pleasant	20.00		31.20			4.25						2.00	57.45	1	200 00		200.00
Citronelle						13 63		22.51				1 00	37.14	1	1,000.00		1,000.00
Shell Banks	21.40	18.00	26.00			1.47		39.40				1.50	107.77	1	600.00		600.00
Bay Minette	23 25		56.82					15.00			7.12	1.00	103 19	1	1,000.00		1,000 00
Bay Shore												1.00	1.00	1	700 00		700 00
Bayou le Batre	560.96	12 80						14.00	254.63		2.47	.55	845 41	1	1,200.00		1,200.00
Pine Grove														1	250.00		250.00
Brook Cedron	98.50	16.50										1.00	116 00				
Grand Bay			48.00	5.00									53 00	1			
Totals	$2,338 15	$247.58	$3,754.19	$1,121.00	$321 88	$391.57	$170.87	$476.41	$621.73	$25.00	$18.65	$31.60	$9,518 63	14	$72,075.00		$77,075 00